

Margaret Gardner Daggett House,  
also known as "Sevenfires"  
111 Main Street  
Nantucket  
Nantucket County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-922

HABS  
MASS  
10-NANT  
42-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

MARGARET GARDNER DAGGETT HOUSE,  
also known as "Sevenfires"HABS  
MASS  
10-NANT  
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Location: 111 Main Street (on north side of Main Street),  
Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Present Owners: C. L. and Marion S. Sibley

Present Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Sibley

Present Use: Summer occupancy

Brief Statement  
of Significance: A mid-eighteenth century house to which another  
eighteenth century house was added at the rear,  
it indicates the increasing size of houses built  
by the newly affluent Nantucketers.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

1746 -- Margaret Gardner Daggett. Ebenezer Gardner  
owned the land prior to 1746 at which time  
he built the house for his daughter Margaret  
when she married Nathan Daggett.

1787 -- Barnabus Macy -- later, his heirs.

1827 -- Nantucket Monthly Meeting of Friends.

1882 -- Sarah S. Paddock -- later, her heirs.

1887 -- Anna M. Mooers.

1888 -- Marianna Swain.

1917 -- Mary A. Bennett.

1921 -- Charlotte Woodman Ham, Jr.

1945 -- to date -- C. L. and Marion S. Sibley.  
(Abstract, Records in Registry of Deeds,  
Nantucket, Massachusetts)

2. Date of erection: Built in 1746. Added to about 1800  
by moving another old structure to it. Many features  
of the house are designed similarly to the Macy and  
Starbuck houses on the corners of Main and Gardner Streets,  
which verifies the date of construction. The east section

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which was added appears to be older than the original west section. It is less sophisticated in style, while the west part was fairly richly built. The original house was doubtless built on the site as there was no cellar under it, with the exception of a small round butter or root cellar, while houses moved into town at later dates were usually placed on a dug-out cellar.

3. Architect: None.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The house was originally of the lean-to type of that period. It was obviously built by people with means as shown by details such as feather-edge paneled doors. The added section had batten doors composed of two wide boards and cross pieces. Originally there was a narrow doorway and only one window on each side of the door.

About 1800 a portion of the back was taken off and another house moved in from Sherburne and joined to it, resulting in the difference in levels between the front and back portions and in two central chimneys, with nine resulting fireplaces, seven of which are now in use; hence the name of the house, "Sevenfires."

The structure is notable for the size and length of the oak "summer" beams in the principal living room and bedrooms.

As with so many of the older Nantucket houses, "Sevenfires" is built close to the street with an attractive garden at the back, entirely hidden from public view. An interesting garden room, once a wood-shed, at the back of the house looks out on the garden of box hedges and old-fashioned flowers.

5. Alterations and additions: House has been considerably remodelled, which makes it appear younger than it really is. It had been added to several times and suffered various unwise attempts at remodelling, especially during the period when the Society of Friends owned it, until in 1945 the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Sibley, restored its former attractiveness.

The west room now used as a dining room was probably a kitchen with fireplace on opposite side of the room from where it is now located. The present one was installed when the house was added to.

Around 1900 there were three apartments in the house,  
with three separate families living there.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: In  
1827 ownership of the house was transferred to the  
Society of Friends and it was used as a home for aged  
and indigent Quakers. During this time, from 1827 to  
1882, it was known as The Friends Boarding House.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Photograph showing house with added bay  
window at the front steps, before 1945 restoration  
in Scrapbooks of Miss Grace Brown Gardner, Nantucket,  
Massachusetts (microfilm copy in Nantucket Atheneum);  
recent photograph of house in Leaflet for 1959 Open  
House Tour, in possession of Mrs. Marie M. Coffin,  
Nantucket, Massachusetts; photographs before and during  
1945 restoration in possession of the present owners,  
Mr. and Mrs. Sibley.

2. Bibliography:

Duprey, Kenneth. Old Houses on Nantucket. New York:  
Architectural Book Publishing Co., Inc., 1959.

Prepared by Mrs. Marie M. Coffin  
Nantucket, Massachusetts  
November, 1965

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared for the Historic American Buildings  
Survey project on Nantucket, Massachusetts. They are part of a  
continuing HABS comprehensive survey of the early architecture  
and urban design of Nantucket financed by a grant from the Nantucket  
Historical Trust.

The project was under the general supervision of James C. Massey,  
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